

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus comprising:
 - a first reel engagement portion;
 - a first brake, wherein the first brake is configured to be selectively coupled to the first reel engagement portion; and
 - a second brake, wherein the second brake is configured to be selectively coupled to the first reel engagement portion.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first reel engagement portion is configured to engage with a take-up reel.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the take-up reel is a reel of a cassette.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the cassette is a videocassette.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, comprising a second reel engagement portion, wherein:
 - the first reel engagement portion is configured to engage with a first reel;
 - the second reel engagement portion is configured to engage with a second reel; and
 - the first reel and the second reel cooperatively hold the same media.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein:
the first reel is a take-up reel; and
the second reel is a supply reel.
7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first brake and the second brake are configured to both selectively couple to the first reel if more media is on the first reel than the second reel.
8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the first brake and the second brake are configured to selectively couple to the first reel at substantially the same time.
9. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein only one of the first brake and the second brake is configured to selectively couple to the first reel if more media is on the second reel than the first reel.
10. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the media is tape.
11. The apparatus of claim 5, comprising a third brake configured to selectively couple to the second reel engagement portion.
12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:

the selective coupling of the first brake and the first reel engagement portion exerts a first friction force;

the selective coupling of the second brake and the first reel engagement portion exerts a second friction force;

the selective coupling of the third brake and the second reel engagement portion exerts a third friction force; and

the sum of the first friction force and the second friction force is greater than the third friction force.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the selective coupling of the first brake and the first reel engagement portion exerts a first friction force;

the selective coupling of the second brake and the first reel engagement portion exerts a second friction force; and

the first friction force is greater than the second friction force.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein only the first brake is configured to selectively couple to the first reel if more media is on the second reel than the first reel.

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:

the first brake is driven by a first cam;

the second brake is driven by a second cam;

the third brake is driven by a third cam; and

the first cam, the second cam, and the third cam are rigidly attached.

16. A method comprising:

detecting an amount of media on a first reel and a second reel;

selectively applying at least one of a first brake and a second brake to a first reel according to the detected amount of media on the first reel and the second reel.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the selectively applying comprises applying both the first brake and the second brake to the first reel if more media is detected on the first reel than the second reel.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the selectively applying comprising applying only the first brake to the first reel if more media is detected on the second reel than the first reel.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the media is tape.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the friction force of the first brake is greater than the friction force of the second brake.

21. The method of claim 16, comprising selectively applying a third brake to the second reel, wherein the sum of the friction force of the first brake and the friction force of the second brake is greater than the friction force of the third brake.

22. An apparatus comprising:
at least two brakes;
a means for applying the at least two brakes to maintain adequate tension in a tape during high speed rotation of a reel.

23. A reel brake mechanism in a magnetic tape recording and/or reproducing apparatus for running a tape by a driving force of a driving source, in which a tape cassette containing the tape is mounted on a supply reel and a take-up reel installed on a main chassis, said reel brake mechanism comprising:

a supply reel brake unit for applying a braking force to the supply reel and controlling a rotational speed of the supply reel;

a spring lever for selectively changing an elastic force applied to the supply reel brake unit so as to adjust the braking force of the supply reel brake unit;

a first take-up reel brake unit and a second take-up reel brake unit for supplying a braking force to the take-up reel by selectively bringing one terminals of the first and second take-up reel brake units into close contact with the take-up reel in accordance with the amounts of the tape wound on the supply reel and the take-up reel;
and

a function plate provided with cams for operating the supply reel brake unit, the spring lever, and the first and second take-up reel brake units.

24. The reel brake mechanism in a magnetic tape recording and/or reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 23, wherein the braking force of the second take-up reel brake unit is smaller than the braking force of the supply reel brake unit applied to the supply reel in the FF or REW mode and the same as or larger than the braking force of the first take-up reel brake unit, and the total sum of the braking forces of the first and second take-up reel brake units is larger than the braking force of the supply reel brake unit in the REW mode.

25. The reel brake mechanism in a magnetic tape recording and/or reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 23, wherein the larger force of the two braking forces respectively applied to the supply reel and the take-up reel is applied to either reel with a relatively larger amount of the tape wound thereon.

26. The reel brake mechanism in a magnetic tape recording and/or reproducing apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the supply reel brake unit is a tension band wound on the outer circumference of the supply reel at a designated length, both terminals of the tension band are connected to a tension arm, and the tension arm is rotated by a tension lever driven by the cams of the function plate and achieves a braking motion of the tension band.

27. A reel brake method used in a reel brake mechanism in which a tape cassette containing a tape is mounted on a supply reel and a take-up reel installed on a main chassis, the tape is run by a driving force of a driving source, a supply reel brake unit applies a braking force to the supply reel, and first and second take-up reel brake units apply a braking force to the take-up reel,

wherein the larger force of the two braking forces respectively applied to the supply reel and the take-up reel is applied to either reel with a relatively larger inertial force in accordance to the amounts of the tape wound on two reels.

28. The reel brake method as set forth in claim 27, wherein the braking force of the supply reel brake unit applied to the supply reel is larger than the braking force of the second take-up reel brake unit; the braking force of the second take-up reel brake unit is the same as or larger than the braking force of the first take-up reel brake unit, and the total sum of the braking forces of the first and second take-up reel brake units is larger than the braking force of the supply reel brake unit.